

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 57 for their extraordinary patriotism and exceptional dedication to service for our country.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL  
HISTORY DAY PROGRAM

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2000*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the National History Day program. A basic knowledge of history is essential for our Nation's children to become informed participants in our democracy, and the National History Day program is promoting history education in Vermont and throughout our Nation.

National History Day is a yearlong not-for-profit program in which students in grades 6–12 research and create historical projects related to a broad annual theme, culminating in an annual contest. It provides students the critical thinking and research skills used in all subject areas.

I had the opportunity to meet with Vermont students who came to Washington for National History Day. This program encourages students to draw attention to important historical events that shaped their own hometowns as well as our Nation, and in the process it improves their writing, reading, and critical thinking skills. It gets students excited about learning, while teaching them skills that will help them throughout their lives.

For its efforts to promote the National History Day program, I would like to commend the Vermont Historical Society. National History Day has had a significant impact in history and social studies classrooms in Vermont and across the country. But there is still much to be done. Many teachers are unable to take advantage of the National History Day program because of a lack of funding.

I urge my colleagues to support funding for the National History Day program in the Fiscal Year 2000 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO PETER B. LEWIS  
AND DANIEL R. LEWIS

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2000*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, there is a growing concern in the global community that the United States may be drifting into increasing isolationism and that the American people are largely disinterested in what happens outside the borders of their own country. I am very proud to highlight two individuals, brothers named Peter B. Lewis and Daniel R. Lewis, who are shining examples of individual American's interest and concern for people in need in other countries and their willingness to stand up and make a difference.

Peter B. Lewis, a resident of Cleveland and one of my constituents, and his brother Daniel

R. Lewis have dedicated a great deal of their own time and resources to promoting peace in the Middle East. They have worked hard to lay the groundwork for peaceful coexistence among the national, religious and ethnic groups in the Greater Cleveland Area.

The Lewis brothers have worked in conjunction with Interns for Peace to develop and implement innovative community development projects that bring together Israelis and Palestinians to work on issues of common concern.

To date, the largest project initiated by the Lewis brothers is the Rabbi Albert Manilla Lewis Saving Human Life Project, which has empowered and united thousands of Palestinians and Israelis in public safety issues. The program has identified road safety as an area of common concern among all sectors of society in Israel and Palestinian areas. Using this common ground, the Rabbi Lewis Program has brought together individuals from different communities to work toward the common goal of reducing traffic injuries and fatalities. Perhaps most impressive, this program works across the complete spectrum of society in the region with a heavy emphasis on individuals from Palestinian refugee camps and in Orthodox Jewish communities in Israel.

The Lewis brothers' choice of mechanisms for engendering cooperation and understanding is no accident. They know a thing or two about automobile safety. The Lewises founded one of the largest insurance companies in the United States, Progressive Insurance, which is based in northern Ohio and provides automobile insurance to millions of Americans.

The work of Peter Lewis and Daniel Lewis is making a difference in the Middle East at a critical time. The program they have created works to promote peaceful co-existence and mutual respect, despite the cultural and historic differences of the communities involved. This is a parallel and complimentary track to the formal peace negotiations underway and important groundwork for any peace agreement that may be reached.

I commend Peter Lewis and Daniel Lewis for their insight, compassion, and creativity in seeking to make the world a better and safer place for people today and for future generations. It is through people like the Lewises—ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things—that our country has prospered and become a global leader and a beacon of hope for people across the globe.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to others, and good luck in your future efforts to promote peace and understanding in the Middle East.

AN APPRECIATION AND TRIBUTE  
TO CURTIS MAYFIELD

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 11, 2000*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to salute and pay tribute to Curtis Mayfield, a great American songwriter,

singer, guitarist, producer, and film composer. He was indeed a poet who wrote lyrics of hope and profound optimism. He was a philosopher and balladeer of the people seeking social action and commitment to the civil rights struggle of the 1960's.

Curtis Mayfield stood on the mountaintop of American music. As a native of Chicago, he was the architect and builder of what has become known as "Chicago Soul." His roots were purely American—originating in the gospel music of his boyhood church. But the heart and soul of his music reached around the world. At the age of 57, after years of fragile health from a near tragic accident, he died on December 26, 1999, during the waning days of the 20th century. Yet, he gave us four decades of song beginning with the formation of The Impressions in the late 1950's, writing soul hits in the 1960's, composing a provocative and memorable soundtrack for the film "Superfly" in the 1970's and recording the Grammy-nominated album "New World Order" in the 1990's.

During the 1960's, his music tapped into the consciousness of a generation. With songs like "It's All Right," "People Get Ready," and "Keep on Pushin'," his call to social action was undeniably clear: he urged us to care about a nation whose great promise was so dear yet woefully denied to people of color and the poor. Wherever people were, wherever they lived, whatever they did, Curtis Mayfield made people think. You could not listen to his songs without being stirred to tears of hope. It was like he knew the soul of America because his music changed us in some way. He lifted our spirits and opened our minds with a sharp-edged social commentary on America in the 1960's.

Whether you listened to his powerful songs in a beauty shop in Harlem or on a sunny afternoon at a midwestern university, without his music, the civil rights movement would have been like a bird without song. Simply, Curtis Mayfield wrote the soundtrack to the civil rights movement. With his songs, he demanded and we accepted his challenge to not rest until we build a new America based on peace and justice.

We are lucky. We are more than lucky to have been touched by the creative genius of Curtis Mayfield. He has fed our hearts and minds with spiritual food. He has moved the feet of a nation toward a better society. He has never left us in spirit because his music still inspires us to remember his optimism, his hope, his sense of righteous indignation, and his abiding faith in a better America.

Another great songwriter and musician, Stevie Wonder, once said of Curtis Mayfield:

For as long as there is romance in love, the joy of pride, the power of words, the teaching of right, and songs with haunting melodies there will always be a need for the music of Mayfield.

As we honor this great American, the legacy of his music is still alive. A new generation of musicians are writing and performing new songs, but they stand on the shoulders of Curtis Mayfield, who created a powerful vision of America through word and song.

Like the men and women before him, who shed blood and tears for a better America, Curtis Mayfield was, above all else, a founder